



MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO  
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Dr. A.J. Liston  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Health Protection Branch

FROM  
DE

Director General  
Environmental Health Directorate

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE/NOTRE RÉFÉRENCE
YOUR FILE/VOTRE RÉFÉRENCE
DATE January 19, 1987

SUBJECT  
OBJET

Request for meeting with officials regarding environmental hypersensitivity (Docket #86-10041)

Mrs. Brooks' letter (on behalf of the Human Ecology Foundation of Canada), received in the Minister's office on December 15, 1986, is requesting a meeting with departmental officials to discuss

- (i) recognition of the disease
- (ii) medical coverage for civil servants under GSMIP
- (iii) public works construction policies to accommodate those with disabilities due to EH
- (iv) financial assistance for her organization in recognition of its provision of counselling to the public on this issue.

The Ontario government has recently recognized the existence of this medical problem. Recognition came as a result of the Thomson Report commissioned by the Ontario Ministry of Health, and the review of its recommendations carried out by a committee under Dr. B. Zimmerman. The Ontario government has indicated its willingness to fund research, but has not yet changed its policies on compensation under OHIP.

Responsibility for diagnosis and treatment of medical problems is largely the responsibility of the provinces, however, the federal government does have responsibility for health care for federal employees involving work-related chemical exposures, resulting illnesses, and compensation payments. The Medical Services Branch has previously been consulted by Treasury Board on this matter, and Mrs. Brooks' letter should probably be handled by this Branch. The matters for discussion are medical matters outside the jurisdiction of the Environmental Health Directorate, as discussed in my previous memo of August 25, 1986.

I would be glad to provide previous correspondence to Mrs. Brooks and others, as well as several briefings on the general topic of environmental hypersensitivity.

*J. Zimmerman*

W. E. Somers